

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

September 26, 1996

Business Meeting

**MINUTES**

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Winchester City Council Chambers, Rouss City Hall, Winchester, Virginia on Thursday, September 26, 1996 with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President  
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.  
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke  
Senator J. Brandon Bell

Ms. Lil Tuttle, Vice-President  
Mr. R. Lee Ware  
Mr. Robert Patterson

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe  
Secretary and Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Ms. Easton indicated that two Board members, Peter Decker and Kay James were not present.

***Welcome***

Ms. Easton introduced and welcomed new Board member, Senator J. Brandon Bell, who was attending his first meeting.

***Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance***

The Invocation was given by Rabbi Howard Folb, Beth El Congregation. Ms. Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Thank You***

Ms. Easton expressed, for the Board of Education, appreciation for the hospitality extended by

Winchester City Public Schools.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Mrs. Easton made a motion for approval of the minutes of the business meeting of July 25, 1996. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tuttle and carried unanimously.

### ***Approval of Agenda***

Ms. Easton indicated that the Board will be in an executive session all afternoon and items listed for discussion after lunch will be moved to the morning session. The motion was made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Ware, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda.

### ***Highlight on Students***

Under the direction of Ms. Elaine Aikens, the Daniel Morgan Middle School Select Chorus performed.

Ms. Easton recognized Wil Bryant, Deputy Secretary of Education and Robin Zink from the Office of the Secretary.

The president of the student body at Handley High School expressed what it meant to be a student at the high school.

### ***Consent Agenda***

Ms. Tuttle requested a brief discussion on Item D, Annual Report on the Status of the Student Tuition Guaranty Fund for Proprietary Schools. Dr. Thomas Elliott, assisted by Charles Finley gave a brief description. Dr. Elliott indicated that the Board of Education has the authority for approving proprietary schools and accrediting those schools. Accreditation means to issue a license for schools to operate. Over the years, many students in such programs came to the Board and the General Assembly and indicated that should the school receive the opportunity to open for operation and for some reason such as bankruptcy do not continue operation the school should put up a certain amount of monies to reimburse the students. Because of this, the General Assembly created the Student Tuition Guaranty Fund for Proprietary Schools. It requires that the fund be administered by a five-member committee. It also shows that the Board of Education should annually receive a report on the stability of the fund. The fund was initially established for \$250,000. If the fund falls below \$35,000 there should

be a severe concern by the Board. The annual report shows the fund total is approximately \$311,000. The committee has had very few requests for payment by students. For the 1995-96 school year the committee had no request for payment to students. Dr. Elliott indicated that basically it is to make certain students enrolled in a program that is provided a license to operate receive a portion of the funds should the program cease to operate. Dr. Elliott also indicated that Mr. Finley is a chartered member of the committee.

Ms. Easton requested information on the fund director of the program. Dr. Elliott indicated that Dick Morgan, Director of Finance, Department of Education, is the fund director of the program. Mr. Morgan reviews the funds, receives the requests for reimbursement, and discusses the requests with the five-member committee and makes a recommendation to the Superintendent. Should the Superintendent concur, they disburse the funds to the students.

Ms. Easton made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Ms Yecke seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund**

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of July 31, 1996, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

**Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans**

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of one Literary Fund Loan supplemental application in the amount of \$20,000.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Smyth County	Northwood Middle	\$20,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$20,000.00

**Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List**

The Superintendent's recommendation is that funds be released for one supplemental application in the amount of \$20,000.

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COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Smyth County	Northwood Middle	\$20,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$20,000.00

### ***Pubic Comment***

The following individuals spoke during the public comment period:

Mary Ann Wyatt	Cathy Campbell
Dr. Fred Kennon	Mary Willits
Mary Breed	Jim Murphy
Jerry O'Dell	Pat Gochenor

Ms. Easton announced that Superintendent Thomas Malcomb of Frederick County Public Schools has extended an open invitation for the Board to attend Red Wood Run Elementary School special opening and dedication ceremony.

### ***DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES***

Ms. Yecke made a brief comment about the State Board Award Program that they started about a year ago to study and come up with ideas for awarding high performing schools in the organization that provide assistance to schools. Ms. Yecke requested time on the October agenda for addition discussion of the State Board Award Program.

Ms. Easton stated that she has had many inquiries about the cost of the federal programs in Virginia. Ms. Easton requested figures on how many employees are funded in whole or part by federal education funds and how many positions are required in whole or part to administer federal programs.

Dr. La Pointe indicated that he is working on a strategic plan that brings together all the pieces of several initiatives in which the Board and the Department are involved. He will share a draft with the Board within five to ten days.

Mr. Ware gave the definition of SOAs and SOLs for people in the audience not familiar with the terms.

### ***Action Items***

**Final Review of Exemption Request for the School Breakfast Program**

Henrico County Public Schools requested exemption from the school breakfast program.

Ms. Easton noted that the Superintendent recommends approval of the exemption. Dr. La Pointe indicated that the school division has met all the requirements of state and federal government.

Senator Bell wanted to know why does Henrico need the exemption with more than 25% of the students participating in the school breakfast program. Kathy Kitchen stated that Henrico High School does not participate in a school lunch program. They do not have free lunches at the high school level. There are only one or two children participating in the program.

Dr. La Pointe noted that they will continue to provide service to those one or two children at their own expense because to continue the program as it is in place now is far more expensive to administer than to provide free lunches to one or two children. They have tried to contact parents and students to make sure no one has been overlooked on this issue.

Mr. Harris expressed concern about children in public schools who are entitled to certain meals and special diets that may be neglected.

The motion was made and seconded by Ms. Tuttle and carried unanimously to accept the superintendent's recommendation for approval of the exemption for Henrico for the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school year.

**Board of Education's Responsibilities Regarding the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind**

A subcommittee consisting of the following Board Members was appointed in the July meeting: Mr. Ware, Chair, Senator Bell and Mr. Decker. Ken Magill and Bob Whytal, Department of Education, also worked with the Board members on this committee. Mr. Ware gave an overview of what the committee has accomplished thus far. Ken Magill indicated that the committee started looking at minutes starting in 1983 and found that the Board of Education starting in 1984 became responsible for the schools in Staunton and Hampton.

For the purpose of clarification, Ms. Easton asked the committee to look at the following actions made by the Board in 1984: (1) the Board should provide rules and regulations for the governing of the schools and (2) the Board should be in charge of the control and operation of the schools.

**Requirements in the Standards of Quality (SOQ) for Local School Board Member In-Service Training**

Lin Corbin-Howerton gave a summary of Requirements in the Standards of Quality for Local School Board Member In-Service Training. The Superintendent's recommendation that the Board to receive the first reading and be approved at the October meeting was approved by the Board.

**Meeting Dates for 1997**

James Laws indicated that the meeting dates are consistent with the current schedule of meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month except January and November. There is one added meeting to be held on February 26 in which the Board of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia requested a joint meeting with the Board of Education. Final Review and approval of meeting dates will be at the October meeting.

**First Review of Exemption Request for the School Breakfast Program**

Ms. Tuttle made a motion and seconded by Mr. Ware to waive the first review and pass exemption request for the school breakfast program in Chesterfield County. The motion carried unanimously.

**Update on the Revision Process for the Standards of Accreditation**

Ms. Easton thanked the Board and Department staff members for attending public hearings that were held around the state in August.

Lin Corbin Howerton gave a summary of the responses to the survey from the public hearings. Ms. Howerton indicated that there are additional notebooks containing summary information at the Department for Board members.

Dr. La Pointe also thanked staff for their efforts. Dr. La Pointe indicated that the staff is working on a draft document for the new Standards of Accreditation, and the objective is to have it implemented by the 1997 fall school year.

Mr. Harris wanted to know if figures are available on how many people are graduating from high school and what percentage of those have gone to four year institutions or two year schools. It was indicated that these figures are in the Superintendent's Annual Report.

**Executive Session**

Mrs. Yecke then moved that the Board go into an executive session pursuant to Virginia Code ' 2.1-344.A. to discuss the investing of public funds where competition and bargaining are involved where if made public at this point the bargaining position of the Commonwealth may be impaired and to receive briefings of legal council concerning the case of Conrecode vs the Board of Education, a claim for fee reimbursement that was filed in the Federal District Court in Richmond in August. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ware and carried unanimously. The Board adjourned for Executive Session at 2:10 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion seconded by Mr. Ware, and carried unanimously, that the Board reconvene in an open session. The Board reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each members knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session was heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call:

Mr. Patterson - Aye	Mrs. Yecke - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye	Senator Bell - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye	Ms. Easton - Aye

Mr. Ware abstained from the motion but noted his concurrence with its substance.

### ***Adjournment***

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 4:15 p.m.

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President